

Still Alive With Sir Clive!

ZXir QLive Alive!

The Timex/Sinclair North American User Groups Newsletter

Volume 5 Number 4

Winter '95

Chairman:

Donald S. Lambert

Auburn, IN

MEMORY MAP

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DER NEUE STANDARD

für PC-Profis!



Profis brauchen die Power

Der Knüller

Mehr Leistung

ZXir QLive Alive! ®

Established 1991

The Timex/Sinclair North American User Groups Newsletter

T/SNUG Information

Here is the list of T/SNUG Chapters and how to contact them. We wish to express the following thanks: T/SNUG, TS-1000, SPIN/TECH, T/SNUG TC-1000, T/SNUG QL. If you have any questions about any of these fine chapters, contact the:

Chairman

Chief Motivator

Donald S. Lambert (TS7UC)

Vice-Chairman

Tapo & JLO PD Library

D O Smith

R 405 Stone St.

Johnstown, PA 15906

814-525-0998

TSB Library

Case Research (TS4TUC)

308 Walton St. East

Lansing, MI 48203

313-754-1121

XX-80 PD Tape Library

Ed Sauer

2136 Churchill Downs Cir

Orlando, FL 32825

407-860-0414

RMG Enterprises

Rod Gower (OCATG)

34704 S Quail Grove Cir

Oregon City, OR 97045

503-635-0484 FAX: 503-635-4110

TS-2008

Rod Humphreys (TS3UC)

1990A Collins Pl

Delco, NC 28028 Chapin

604-383-2823

QL PD Library

John Donahue (OCATUC)

423 Foxwood Cir

Corona, IL 60134-1603

708-232-6147

RRS — GATOR

Bob Swager (CATUC)

613 Parkside Cir

Stemwood, IL 60107-1647

708-875-7507 Fax: 708-378-4008

Editor/Treasurer

Lee Kent PD Library

Abel Kahale (CATUC)

3343 S. Flat Rock Ct

Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-6874

520-378-3424

ZXir QLive Alive!

is the newsletter of T/SNUG, the Times/Sinclair North American User Groups, providing news and software support to the T/S community in a **MEMBER** of four newsletters per year, beginning with the Spring (March) issue.

T/SNUG's main goal is to keep our Magazine, our vendors and our repair service alive for the benefit of T/S users.

These valuable services shall have their advertising space in this user supported Newsletter so that they can see that we are still active on here. We must support their services whenever possible.

Another T/SNUG goal is to search titles of all known Public Domain and commercial software available for all Times/Sinclair machines building a library and providing lists of that software showing both the source and the availability.

If you have solved a problem or you have a problem in one of your software or hardware, please share it with the rest of us.

Treasury Notes

As of January 16, 1996, we have a balance of \$1078.26

You can keep T/SNUG alive by an annual contribution of \$12 for one volume made payable to Abel Kahale. Send check to:

ABEL KAHALE
3343 S FLAT ROCK CT
SIERRA VISTA AZ 85635

Back Newsletter copies are available for \$0.75 each postpaid.

Article Contributions

Send in your articles by tape or disk and your inputs to -

DON LAMBERT

ZXir QLive Alive! Newsletter

1301 KIBLINGER PL

AUBURN IN 46706-3010

Phone 219-925-1372

Or by hardcopy or modem (300-14 4)

to: Abel Kahale.

103437 2440@compuserve.com

GATOR'S TWISTED PAIR

We have a 14 hour BBS and encourage you to exchange mail and contribute to the Upload Section. Use it and have fun! (BRI 300-2400 BAUD)

Call 708 632-5558

and Register using your first name, last name and phone number along with a password you won't forget, and *Pride Is Down!* Do not try to do anything else the first time because all the board options will be locked-out.

When you call-in the next time, you will have Level 5 security and be able to enjoy full user privileges. The BBS has smaller sessions called conferences. Select "1" for "Join a Conference" to see the different user groups. Select "TIMEX" to get into the Sinclair Section. The mail you then read will only be from other TIMEX Sinclair users but all BBSs show the same bulletin. Use extension ART for articles, ADS for ads and NWS for news when uploading.

For help, contact the SYSOP by leaving a message, mail, e-mail or phone. Bob

Swager SYSOP --aaGATOR--

Welcome

Robert Schimke

Input/Output

by *Fred Kahala*



Dear Sanjour friends:

In the INTERNET news group comp.sys.amstrad, I found the information, that you are running a SINCLAIR-TIMEX user group.

I am a member of the German ZX-TEAM, the last ZX81 user group in Germany, founded first in 1981!! We have about 70 members and we edit a bimonthly magazine, the ZX-TEAM-MAGAZIN, 24 issues until today. Our active members are almost (usually) hardware-orientated.

Some of our developments are:

- Flippy disk interface (two different solutions)
- Stepper motor controls for colormon
- Memory as much as you like, up to one megabyte
- Colormon-like from LAMBDA adapted to ZX81
- ZX81-emulator
- and a lot of creative projects

Some of our members are working to develop a hard disk drive and LCD-screen.

I would like to hear about your designs, do you edit a magazine? Please send information about your work.

Perhaps we could share information

I enclose a realized copy of our ZX-TEAM MAGAZIN. It is in German of course, so you will be able to see what we are doing. The original issue is twice as big (A3) and has 38 pages. Our Danish member Martin von der Zeev intends to publish translations in his INTERNATIONAL ZX81 MAGAZINE.

I also enclose 2 IBC (International Response Cards) for your answer (I hope it will be enough).

Thank you very much for reading my letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

your sincerely 13.09.85

PETER LIEBERT-ADELT
LUETZOWSTRASSE 3
D-38102 BRAUNSCHWEIG
GERMANY

PS: please excuse my bad English. I had to accelerate it for my ZX81 activities 15 years after leaving school.

Amstradworld: 08-437 81 DALLMAN STR. 10010

e-mail: berhorn@gate.sco.de

Thank you for informing us of your ZX-Team. We both can profit by exchanging magazines.

Please send us your next copy perhaps undelivered. May be one of our members would translate your articles so that we can share information.

Calvin

Just a note to THANK YOU for your 08/29/85 letter and HELP! I do appreciate both. It's sure a comfort to know that when we get "hang-up" there's someone out there to help!

For the record I had gone the FDD power supply route some time ago and I replaced the original ps with one furnished by RMC. However, the balance of the info got me out of the head and everything is "up & operating" again. My Grandson is fast without his 256K disk drive which I can understand!

44 - THANKS AGAIN, ARSEF

Fred Hann
Amherst, NY

I have just found out about your vague choice a Company that sells Sinclair peripherals. I would like some information about your bigger sale to my home. I would also like to receive information on how much your back issues would cost to purchase and such.

I own a Sinclair ZX81 and a Sinclair QL. I am more interested in the ZX81 though. Please send me all the information possible. Thank you.

JOSE MORENO
1871 N GLADES DR. APT 3
NORTH MIAMI BEACH FL 33162

System-Oriented Languages BBS

The BBS announces the opening of System-Oriented Language Bulletin Board System. SOL BBS is unique, in its use of the Times-Sinclair model 2068 as a platform for data communications. When have you EVER seen a computer BBS, run on a 2068?? Well, here it is, and it's only a telephone call away!!

As you might expect, the need for prompt response within the constraints of 77500 bytes of RAM memory has led to a few compromises. But, you should be rather comfortable with the system. SOL BBS features a 64 character-per-line messaging system along with time-tagging, if the SYSDP is absent. Otherwise, MacCort has a fully functional TALK mode for on-line conversations between SYSDP and users.

The original software, from Ottawa-Hull Times/Sinclair BBS, has been broken out into three versions of Larry Kanny's MacCort.

First, TERMAc serves as strictly terminal software, which performs basic housekeeping duties. Using an on-screen Autodialer to call somebody in TERMINAL mode, the user can SEND and Receive File or just type in TALK mode. The individual message bases can all be searched, using TERMAc. Communications parameters are all adjustable here, the Clock can be set or read here, and the Capture Buffer is opened or closed here along with sending text files. Arbitrary text files are VIEWed in the message menu.

For remote operation of the BBS, the NCMobile mode for setting the clock conflicts with TALK mode. So, the version of MacCort for unattended use tags all calls with timeCN, elapsed time, and Message Entry Times.

For attended use, MacCort implements a full-featured TALK mode.

So, please give us a call and see what the 2068 has for the gay 90's. Oh yes, and PLEASE leave the SYSDP a message.

320 884-7667 (Voice)
320 882-0388 (Data)

David Lasso
Tucson, AZ

Communication

Hey everyone

I'm in the current stages of setting up a new Sinclair based down here in Florida, and I would like to get some feedback as to what kind of things do you want it to have. Message base topics, types of files, etc. Please e-mail me your comments. Thanks.

Well, my Sinclair BBS is now in operation. It's run-

ning on a BBS close race using cables for the BBS program. It's running on a 28.8 baud modem, 24 hours 7 days a week. I am awaiting all the Sinclair machines. These are my old ones.

ZX81 values, ZX81 games, ZX81 applications, ZX81 educational, ZX81 expert text, ZX81 etc. and the same category for all the other machines, the 2068, Spectrum, QL, and the BBS 1 solo only have a few for the ZX81 and 10 megs of games for the Spectrum I downloaded from the Internet and some for the QL. I need to find something for the BBS and the 2068 like it stayed up and running right now, I solo have 218Meg h.d, but I'm also including some BBS stuff just so I am going to have to buy a 1 gig h.d for the board.

Happy new year!!!!!! (2001) and hope to see you on my board some day! Jose

Oh! sorry I forgot to tell you the info it's called The Sinclair Computer Connection BBS
(605) 940-8274

Synop Jose Moreno <-----jmc>

Hope see you all online soon!!!!

Goodness,

I put your name and address off a rate in Europe and wondered if maybe you might be able to help me. I'm looking for a schematic of the 2068 or at the very least a print of the edge connections. I found one for the Spectrum but I'm guessing that they are dissimilar and would hate to make something based on faulty knowledge. If any of you can help I would be forever grateful! Thanks,
Kimmy Posey

kimmyd@fmr.ca or KPosey7MG@aol.com

I can supply you with the schematic to you request. I own the manual. I will need a mailing address. The BBS is 705-576-4068 TGgroups are ChicagoareaTimes/NewsGroup @ Times/SinclairNorthAmerica/NewsGroup Tex, -----GAT22----- CENG188@aol.com or bala@vcom.net.com

Hey there!! My mailing address is
Kimmy Posey
3600 Auburn Ch Rd
Gannett NC, 27529

You're a lifesaver!

To: Timothy C. @Jafm Swenson at CYM
Subject: Re: Sinclair
Hello again Mr Swenson,

You asked for more details about the ZX81 program I have written. I'm not sure what sort of details you mean. All I can think of is a description of the requirements and format of the program and a general description. If I've missed out anything send me another message.

The program is "Masada Class". It requires 10k of RAM and so far it only on tape although any way of transferring it to disk would

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DISK II

Donald Luskien

Those using our beloved computers are slowly dwindling away. There are a few that have gotten into the fold but not nearly as many as in the past. But a lot of us are diehards that enjoy the learning, the using of our devotedly limited computers. I, for one, do not want to get a major upgrade into a computer that has all those fancy attachments and bookshelves' after bookshelves' of manuals to use the software. Who needs all that complexity? Not I.

I noted that Rob in the last issue addressed the subject of disk speed checker. Well, I guess I will have to get it out again and give it yet another try. It is such a short program in BASIC but that if you do not know programming that you are lost. I did get it to work with the Olgier/Larkien marriage but it will not work with the pure Larkien system. According to the Late Bill Pedersen it has something to do with the OUT command.

I went to the Dayton ComputerFest but it was not user friendly to anyone except the MOSOS and the MAC and only then to the faster machines. The single biggest item was the CD-ROMs. I saw very few disk drives that would work on the TS 2000 and of those few they were in the "I don't know if they will work" category. I did buy a few. And I will have to admit I still have not tested them. There were few vendors with used disks and one was offering used 3.5 disks (700K) at a very low price. I brought a tray of them for \$8.00 (later in actual count was 14¢) so I am set for that size for quite a while. In fact I am not yet using that size.

Since we were stalling if to use only the (TYMUCH) that got a table and SHAC) got two tables and that was the entire extent of the TS800 at the ComputerFest and we were not in our ideal spot since that was the food machine eating area (and the only place to eat) and it was full of heavy smoke. I saw a lot of my old friends but not like in earlier years.

Will I go to Dayton again? I do not know, right now I am not sure. I might go for one day, that is close down Friday and FISH and return late Saturday. It will depend on who might be there next year. Is it worth the gas, motel, meals and the time? Only time will tell.

But enough of the sob story. Look at the positive and what lays ahead. Jack Deberry is still programming and maybe more new and wonderful things will come from him. And there are others that might have something to contribute. There are still those that have just discovered that there is a TS group and are amazed.

At our house we went through a sort of emergency. It could possibly have led to a tragedy. Our furnace was

worings so far as I could tell, an O.K. but when I went from control air to using heat the furnace blower suddenly was stuck on while the power was applied to the furnace. In fiddling with the controls I managed to loose the pilot light and I could not get it to relight. I finally went two houses away where a man - that worked for the company that installed the furnaces in the area (and they still are building houses in the area) lived and asked him to check what I was doing wrong. In the process he observed that a circuit board on the furnace had apparently went bad but he got the furnace to relight. However, he discovered that the heat exchanger had holes in it and had to be replaced. He did seal the holes temporarily so that we could have

heat while we waited for parts or a new furnace. An estimate of parts gave a figure that was quite high a sizable fraction of the cost of a new furnace and then the furnace still could develop another problem. So we put in a new furnace. NOTE: we did not have any noticeable health problems from carbon monoxide but then the furnace was only run a few times a day. So on October 1st the new one was installed. Our furnace did cost more money than a normal furnace since it is an oversized

furnace, that is, it is manufactured for a house with a slab floor. The air enters the top of the furnace and proceeds downward, to be heated and come into and under the poured concrete flooring through the air ducts there. The furnace, of course, makes more noise so than the old one but it works and is safe.

I took a break from this and copied a cartridge to disks, Flight Simulator. I haven't looked to see if this was on cassette but I presume that it was. I wanted to send it to Bob Swager and he uses the Larkien LUCDOS so how did I SAVE it to disks I used the NMI push button save. But with the Larkien there is a disk board so that is out. What I did was pull the Larkien disk board - turned off power of course - and with only the Olgier working on my Olgier/Larkien disk system I had the cartridge installed and powered up and there it was on the screen. I then pressed the Olgier NMI SAVE and the disk drive sang a song and I pressed a number key and there it was on disk. I then powered down and pulled the cartridge and replaced the Larkien disk board and I then powered up and LOADED from disk and then I turned off the Olgier and used the NMI push-button to SAVE to a Larkien disk and after that I changed the name to the Larkien normal naming from the NMI-SI CM to STEEN.SI so there it is. I had had to break the program after SAVING but it was out.

I have a bunch of cassettes for the TS 2000 that I will try to get onto disk. To do so I will have to do the

It is Time to Renew for Volume #6

DISKettes as paper so that I can compare the programs with other similar programs. If they in fact are the I will only **SAVE** one to disk. With the Cliger **SAVE** disks the directory also gives the number of bytes in a program. So if the programs from different sources have the same number of bytes, I can assume that they are the same. That is a long term project for me to do.

I had wrote to Vols and Vols magazine with a question about what size wire to use for the power cable between the power supply and the disk drives with a 3 foot run. I got all kinds of answers and most are in line with what I finally figured from wire tables and the resistance of wire, it looks like #18 gauge wire should be adequate. So I guess that project has no chance to not go forward. Currently I am using a pair of 67.5 watt power supplies (TPM) to operate four full height disk drives. I have four half height drives to use some day, I will reserve them for when these drives die or I get more ambition to make a new drive case.

And so soon as I get the interface and the case from Frank Davis I will be trying to use portable disk drives on my Z88. The drives are TANDY and are obsolete and I asked the local Radio Shack store to play telephone tag to locate me a pair. One came from California and the other from Washington state. I bought the Z88 from Frank at the ComputerFest and have only tested it to see if it worked. When the drive interface arrives I will give it a real test of what sort. The drives use 4 AA batteries for power and have a capacity of 200K. What am I going to use it on? I don't know at the moment. Since I have a parallel printer cable for the Z88 I can print out without **UPLOADING** to the TTS 2048. Of course I should get a serial port built so that I can upload it to the TTS 2048.

With regards to the gift to help from Fred Hertz on the Amdek disk drive case and drive. I do happen to have the Amdek manual which is about the drive case and power supply plus the disk drives themselves. I have no use for it so if I was supplied the postage I might almost a pound and half I would mail it to Fred Hertz. If Fred's address was in the newsletter I would have wrote him direct.

And now with the colder weather here, yesterday the sun shone and the snow came down, but not at the same time. So now that outside walking is out of the question, I have started using the treadmill. Trouble is I cannot really know how far I have gone since I have to take the machine's word for it, 30 minutes and it said I went 1.73 miles. It is boring even I watchlates to CNN. I will have to get into it with 30 minutes every day or at least several times a week. This is called body maintenance and regardless it is boring.

I will go to the Allen County Mall/Port this coming Saturday (November 18th) to see what there is for me in the computer line. I have only one item to look for and that is a 5 VDC power supply to use for the portable disk drive for the Z88. BUT I will be looking since I do not know what I will use or find.

I was given an Apple IIc computer that does not work. It just produces a beeping tone pattern on the monitor and I was told by someone else that it is an indication that the video circuit is bad. However, the green screen monitor will work with the TTS 2048. I opened up the computer and the disk drive does not look like a standard drive. So maybe that is out for use on the TTS 2048.

I will now turn this over to the rest of the gang. 80



Due to my reluctance after 30 years in the Chicago area to Arizona through a little ruse, up, some national for the Newsletter was once issued but I finally received it the first week of January — Happy New Year to you all.

It was quite an experience. I have had collected a huge amount of items over the years — I might read it some day but when it came to moving some 1800 miles at 45 a pound, it was time to get rid of most of it and I did that week.

Many in my year. A whole lot of electronic equipment, pens, test instruments, vacuum tubes, motors, transformers, you name it. I sent a cash check. CATCO members were first invited to help themselves and the rest went by the bye.

Now that I have been in Arizona for two months, I wonder why I didn't make that move earlier. The weather is beautiful and the air is fresh and clean. The temperature has been between 54 - 78° at high noon and down to 29 - 40° at the low hours of the morning. It rained once (x) and snowed once (1/2) at night but it melted by 10 AM. About 50% of my neighbors are so warm as the service (retiree), make me, as the military, at Fort Huachuca, the electronic testing grounds. Very nice, friendly and helpful people. The town was established in 1955, everyone is from somewhere else. I see the snow capped Miller's Peak, 9000 ft. from my window. Here is a letter that I mailed to friends and relatives two weeks after my arrival, so if you are interested, read on.

Our Escapade

It was a long trip, 1864 miles in 4 days, we had to be here before the morning sun arrives otherwise, I would have been charged for storage and unloading. We left two days after the arrival on Nov. 9, in clean house and put junk out for garbage. The hardest part on us and the fully loaded car was between Oklahoma City and Albuquerque, NM. It was all steep hills and dips, about a 100, some of them about 500 ft. up and then 500 ft. down with very strong constant braking hand wheel. I let the car coast down as fast as it wanted and then up the hill when it stalled down gears and slowed down to 40 at the top. We arrived after 3 PM, Nov. 12, got the keys and went home to find no electricity and no gas (no heat). I called but couldn't get anyone to do anything, before 5 PM. Got candles, put a blanket under and one over and slept on the floor. We brought with us blankets, pillows, mat cover, broken utensils, computer, towels, toilet bowl and a cat.

Mad and full with rage, the next day I was on the phone again. I had to go first to City Hall to get 1800 ft. pay deposits for sewer and garbage and get a Certificate of Ownership without which I wouldn't get my services from others. Called the gas company and was told that they will install the meter in 3 days. No way! Canceled. I went there,

asked for the big boss and talked to him. "This afternoon", she said, after I showed the range words. "We even don't have hot water or take a bath". The electric company will contact me sometime in the afternoon, they had put a notice on the door 2 days before we arrived that they will turn off the power if I don't get in touch with them. The gas man, wouldn't turn the gas on because the hot water heater was not connected and had no shut off valve installed. The gas range also could not set up the range without electricity.

Back to the electric company—I went if now! The furnace guy could not set up the furnace without gas and electricity. That was finally done the next day. Luckily it was in the 40's at night and the house did not get too cold.

The moving was arrived at noon and finished unloading by 3 PM. Now to the unpacking, searching, unpacking and where does it or should it go? Where did I last see that?

Everything in the house is made to comply with the energy saving laws here. The furnace is high efficiency, the featureless stainless water has flow controls on all fixtures even the toilet

has a controlled flush, holding the lever down gives a longer flush otherwise it is just a squirt. Outside lights work from light sensors to turn on 40-watt bulbs even the street lights have 300 watts sodium bulbs instead of 300. Well insulated house, storm windows and all, just like Chicago.

The weather is beautiful, 47 to 78° at noon and starts cooling down, after sunset to 39° - 40° at night with a comfortable gentle breeze. Windows are open all day except when a backdraft is working and close. The humidity has been between 35 and 34%. We feel great but too early as we have not got accustomed to the 4000 ft. elevation. No clouds in the blue blue sky except one day when a passyway cloud presented us with a few rain drops. The sun gets hot in the sun, A/C during the day and heater at night. The only negative in the yard, I tried to dig to plant it in like digging in concrete. Not only hard red clay but with lots of stones and rocks thrown in the good measure. It is a sign drill and never touched by man, no organic matter, no top soil. Water just sits on top of dry soil for hours. A stick of dynamite may be needed to make a hole for every shade tree I plan to plant.

People here live at a slow pace and nothing seems to be urgent except probably going to a fire. The only newspaper is delivered at 3 PM and I get the mail at 1 PM. All the people we talked to are very friendly and all are from somewhere else. The postwoman told me she was from Missouri, IL. "Arizona is the place to live", she said, so did the men at Ace Hardware and the guy across the street who is from Montezuma, Wis. The four neighbors in our court work at the Fort, there is a couple of retired down the street but most of them are in the military and would like to return here. Everyone of them offered to help and one of them invited us for Thanksgiving.

Nov. 30, 1993

PC Power Supply for your QL

by Al Teng

Some folks to the QL's power supply or additions to make the QL motherboard more viable are best described as ELUCID. Since enough time had transpired between when I thought I knew how to read a schematic to the present time when I know I do NOT know how to read one (remember when a schematic was glued to the inside of transistor radios?), and because it seems that I have always lived in places where "vintage" electronic components are not readily available over-the-counter, none of the kluges were viable for me. My trouble shooting has degenerated to replacing suspected "defective" part, and, my repairs are limited to what can be ascertained with a Volt-Ohm-Meter (VOM) and fixed with a soldering iron. Nonetheless, I managed to come up with a Four Line wiring scheme which allows you to utilize virtually any PC power supply with your QL motherboard.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

My Four Line (+5 GND -12 +12) wiring scheme allows for proper power to the 5581 pin and motherboard and all (?) attachments to the 64-pin DIN edge connector. In addition to a working QL, to implement this "project" you will need any PC-type power supply

male & female 4-pin connector

1 "length" of RED wire for +5

1 "length" of BLACK wire for GND

1 "length" of BLUE wire for -12

1 "length" of YELLOW wire for +12

solder (reflux)

soldering iron (preferably, 15 watts)

snaps (finger nail clippers are "okay")

1 convenient "length" of about 12" (or, more) of multi-stranded wire

As they say [this is a disclaimer], you attempt the described modification at your own risk and neither I nor ZQA can take responsibility for snafu. The skill level you will need is modest, but you do need to have some previous soldering experience since the space may seem limited if you are not used to soldering on electronic boards. If you don't know how to solder, or your idea of soldering is with a torch on copper pipe, then either don't do that, or find someone who can see a pencil pointed soldering iron.

Since all soldering is done to the bottom of the motherboard, at some point, you will need a Philips head screwdriver to open the QL case and remove the motherboard. Again, if you have tapestries, then DON'T do it.

Look at the diagrams. All four diagrams are representative views of the back edge of a QL motherboard. For clarity, the majority of the diagrams have been rendered simply as lines, with the necessary pattern a closer representation. The enlarged diagram for is the suggested point on the motherboard to solder the

permanently soldered wire.

Do not begin this project until you have compared the bottom of the motherboard with the diagrams and have a good sense of what is represented.

WHY I DID IT

The first time my QL went dead I was obviously perplexed. Several months of me had disassembled me with the fact that the position of the QL's case behind the motherboard would always get warm when running, and mine was *never* cold. After deciding to read the very limited warranty, I opened the case and confirmed that the 7805 voltage regulator to which the heat sink was attached was dead by replacing it with a new one and having my QL come back to life.

Time passed, and after replacing the 7805 for the umpteenth time, I knew I had to come up with an alternative power supply. It seemed that all the "standard" power supplies which were available provided three voltages: (+5 +5 -12). Because the output for QL power supply is AC, the QL Screen Manual that I bought was of little assistance to me. Time for the VOM!

WHAT I DID

Obviously, I felt that I

needed to come up with a simple Four Line wiring scheme which only depended on the available voltages from a standard power supply.

Beginning at the point that I knew the best, I soldered a RED wire (+5 volts) to the trace that the 7805 voltage regulator output was connected. Use the flux to top the ends of the four wires before



soldering them to the motherboard - that is, strip about a quarter-inch from the ends of the wire, dip them in flux, weld heat them from the soldering iron, then apply a light coat of solder. Keep ends so that about 1/16" of wire remains exposed before soldering to the motherboard.

I did consult the QL Screen Manual to confirm that the middle pin on the power



connector socket was the ground, and soldered a BLACK wire to it. This is a tight space, and perhaps other points on the motherboard could be used.

Using the QL User Guide and a VOM I found the pin closest the QL's power connector socket which corresponded to the +12 volt pin on the 84-pin expansion



connector. I later decided to also find +12 volts to that pin to provide (sapped down) voltage for the microdrives and whatever else does not use "standard" voltages (after all, the QL's country was designed to deal with +15 volts, wasn't it?) Do you need to add the additional jumper? I really don't know. I can say that whether or not my logic was correct, the microdrives seem to operate as before (whatever that means).

Wiring the -12 volt line was a bit perplexing to me. The first time, I soldered the BLUE wire onto the output pin of the small transistor (like triode/TU-which generates the -12 volts from the AC input. This was [in] a very tight space, and I don't think I did a clean soldering job since operation of the Serial ports seemed problematic.

Eventually, I soldered a BLUE wire (-12 volts) to the largest (improbable) point near the 84-pin edge connector which connected to the long trace nearest to the back edge of the motherboard behind the Serial ports (see diagram). The Serial ports work with this arrangement.

SOME OF THE CHOICES I MADE

I happened to see the "standard" 4-pin Molex connector that is commonly used for disk drives since that was what I had.

The wire color sequence I used is RED - BLACK - BLUE - YELLOW. Note that the wire colors "match" except for the -12 volt line.

This may be (as probably) a bad choice if you are color blind (I am not), but I presume that if you were to randomly plug your QL motherboard into a "standard" 4-

pin Molex that there would be no harm since the -12 VOLT line would simply be "looking at" a GROUND line. However, if you plug in a modified power supply line to a drive, you might have a problem with the -12 Volts (minimal as it is) being where a GROUND line should be! I really don't know.

To minimize confusion, I labeled the four lines attached to the QL motherboard and the Molex plug, and also, I labeled the power supply lines at Molex socket, too.

To further reduce visual differentiation, I twisted the "angular" power supply output lines which supply power to the drive.

Regardless, match the sequence (voltage and color) of the lines from the power supply with those of used on the motherboard. If the power supply you are using does not have leads, then solder matching colored wires to the appropriate terminals (i.e., RED to +5, BLACK to Ground, and so on) and BRAID.

Although the wire COLOR and Voltage output seems to have been standardized to what I have described, don't make that presumption if you are not using a "new" power supply & case. For example, older Leading Edge power supplies used a proprietary color scheme, so, don't presume anything. If-in-when in doubt, check with a VOM, or have a friend who knows how to use a VOM check your power supply's output. If you don't know what a VOM is, or how to use one, ask someone in your user group.

If you had your have successfully wired your QL's motherboard, and attached the power supply's output lines to a matching socket, then before you re-attach the various accessories to your re-wired QL motherboard you should test the motherboard with only a monitor attached just to see you have mangled the wiring. If your bare QL works, then it should work with all its accessories attached, too. **WHY EVERY QL USER SHOULD CONSIDER THIS**

It should be noted for those who have read this far and do not think that it is necessarily worth the effort of rewiring their standard, QL power supply that there is a probable cause and effect that I will suggest which makes it pertinent for anyone still using the standard keyboard matrix (old or new) to consider the modification.

Some time ago, I had concluded that one of the reasons that the QL's keyboard matrices fail is not necessarily because SRL was trying to save a few pennies, but because of the proximity of the control tails to the heat sink (where the matrices tend to fail). That is, simply, that the material is prematurely aged by the heat.

Having said that, the concern is that handling a single (i.e., "old") matrix might make it fail, so, this is best done with caution unless you are already in the process of installing a new matrix.

Okay, so you're up to the project. You can wire your QL before you have a specific power supply in hand.

You should note that there are a lot of "cheap" power supplies available. I've tried doing this with a lot of really strange stuff (i.e., I "wasted" a lot of money on odd-ball power supplies while trying to save money) and, then,

Winter 1996

Elton has successfully wired a COLSCO power supply to my Q1s.

Dave LIFDAUTE's article came too late for me, but just as well since the wiring he described employed a multitude of lines coming from a modified COLSCO power supply to some cryptically described "pins" on the Q1 motherboard. Well, at some point, I actually got a chance to lay my baby-fingers on Dave's handwork. Huh... I learned that my confusion as following Dave's article was a result of trying to use the Q1 Service Manual as a guide rather than just assuming an actual motherboard. I also learned what Roy Barber (QUANTA) had meant when he once remarked about engineers tending to use only one color of wire!

The lesson. On yourself a favor and use different colored wire for different voltage values.

Widely-extended, colored wire is available from auto supply stores or can often be found at the automotive section of some national hardware stores. Disposition forced me to use some Blue Krylon for my -12 volt line -- a waste.

Q1Pins

The Q1Pins is a fold-over type backplane with three buffered connections, and, my recollection is that the original Q1Pins, or a close cousin, was available several years ago without the AT compatible power connectors. Learning that the Q1Pins now comes with PS & PS power connectors which correspond to an AT-type power supply finally peaked my curiosity enough that I bought one even though I probably won't use one (and I struggle to find a "used" (under \$250), Super Gold Card).

The Q1Pins may not be the answer for everyone who wants to use a PC-type power supply. While a Super Gold Card does not need to be modified to take advantage of the Q1Pins's power connectors, modifications are necessary when used in tandem with either a Trump or standard Gold Card disk interface. Call me stupid, but as a worse case scenario I would rather have to replace a Q1 motherboard than a disk interface.

Another Q1Pins observation I want to make for those who are not familiar with IBM compatible PC hardware is that PC & AT power supplies (to my knowledge) are not wired the same. I "forgot" what the precise difference is, but after physically modifying my sister's first generation IBM PC case to accept an AT motherboard, the motherboard didn't work when I plugged the power supply into it. The problem was apparently in the power connector output lines being sequenced differently than that of an AT power supply. Since I didn't have my reference material with me to put the power lines in the proper sequence, I re-wired the original PC motherboard back into the case (and, of course it worked), and you, the AT motherboard did work when it was plugged back into an AT power supply.

I cannot say that your Q1 equipment will successfully survive having

a Q1Pins plugged into a "regular" PC power supply. When in doubt, check line voltages.

DO IT YOURSELF FOLD-OVER

Part of the underside of the Q1Pins is the additional one created by the "extra" two connectors which you probably won't need. The extra connectors are a throw-back to when some expansion cards did not have Three-Forty. Of course, the alternative is "time-bought" is to make one yourself.

Over a half dozen years ago, after much trial-and-error ("guessing of truth" is probably a better description), I can say that a fold-over type board should be relatively easy to solder up, but, it requires acquiring the necessary parts (connectors, perfboard, brass wire, solder, soldering iron), and, knowing the easiest way to fabricate it.

Initially, I tried the "original" Foldover board (Adman Services) which failed miserably (for me) for a couple of reasons -- the primary being my confusion as ordering (my cousin of QUANTA came about a month after they apparently were received in the UK), thus receiving the last one (literally) on the shelf which unfortunately had some broken traces that accumulated hand wiring some of the connections. HEW? Apparently, during construction at least one other trace must have broken (they were very, VERY thin), or I had an undetectable solder splash. Regardless, I just could never get it to work despite extensive continuity checks.

Okay, so I pulled the connectors, and decided to hand wire a "clean" piece of perforated board (Radio Shack). Well, I made the mistake of following the lead set by the single-sided, printed circuit of the Foldover board, and tried to hand wire the 64 (x1) pins on the same side. Let me just say that using insulated, wire-wrap was a lot more crowded in a hurry. In the end, my "first" home-made fold-over board didn't work either but, I keep it around as a reminder of what not to do.

In a flash of this-is-really-obvious-in-retrospect, I determined that the key to successfully hand wiring and soldering a fold-over board is to use both sides of the perf board. Really. Double-sided soldering can be done with the end result being physically quite stable.

So, all you need to do is to take the first connector and strengthen the "lower" row of pins (i.e., bend the "upper" row) so they can be inserted into an appropriately spaced piece of perforated board. If you do the same for the other connector, you will find that if properly bent/straightened and inserted into the perf board, the lower pins will be pointed toward one another on one side of the perf board and the straight rows will be accessible on the other. I allowed for some "loose" between connectors. The Q1Pins's first connector appears to be similarly spaced.

Of course, you want to ensure that the DFM connectors are snug to the perf board before soldering. I decided to use (time) wire for the connecting wires since it's slightly heavier gauge or less fragile than the wire-wrap you can get from your local Radio Shack (of course, you can use insulated wire-wrap if you prefer). If you follow my suggestion of double-sided soldering, you simply need to solder a connecting wire between each pin of one connector with the one that lines up with a pin on the other connector.

If you have made your fold-over board with fitted wires (as I have), I recommend that you "paste" the wires, exposed wires to provide some insulation.

Since edge DIN connectors are rare in North America, if you want to try to cobble up a fold-over board, you might consider salvaging a matched pair of DIN connectors from a QL memory expansion which has a Two-Port since these boards are pre-dominantly available for a very small amount (try Mechanical Affinity). Removal of the DIN connection from the circuit board is best done with either a razor saw or a Dremel-type tool (of course, you will want to cut as close to the board as possible).

YOU CAN DO IT

I have an internally expanded (912K) QL motherboard modified by Murr Pedersen) with the described Four Line wiring configuration. Because the 912K QL is in the standard QL case, I have left the 7805 voltage regulator in place so that I can power it using either a PC power supply OR a QL power supply - then have been to perceived conflicts.

My "primary" QL (with an unmodified Gold Card) has been wired to a Sperry PC case (180 watt PS) for years. Before I bought either the Sperry case or the Gold Card, the "same" motherboard was installed in an AT case (200 watt - common for the hardware configurations) and the original connector attached to the QL motherboard was a salvaged psu set that I used plugging only into PS from the power supply.

My QL motherboard is held in place within the Sperry case with two screws whose posts were inserted in a 1/4" thick piece of pine cut to fit the bottom of the case; and, the edges of the QL motherboard "rest" above the wooden platform on 1/8" thick strips of perfumed hardboard that happened to be handy.

A home-made ribbon cable interface connected a keyboard which used the original QL matrix and I bought a Polonium keyboard interface a couple of years ago. The new, DI-REN keyboard interface (available from Mechanical Affinity) would be my first choice, now.

If you have questions, contact me.

AL FENG

914 RIO VISTA CIR. SW

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87105

READTHIS TOO

I would like to think that the foregoing is useful information for many people within the QL community; and, I have to apologize for the delay in getting it into print.

Prior to the inception of IQJA, I believe I put out a general query regarding interest in an article on putting a QL in a standard PC case, but, the only response I got was from Peter Hale (then editor of NERGLUCH's newsletter). The problem with NERGLUCH's newsletter was my perception that the article would reasonably need to be broken up (i.e., re-written) into episodic installments due to its length. So, for various reasons, I never got around to re-writing (and, sending) a version of the original draft. My belated apologies.

Shortly thereafter, I spent my "last year" in the hinterlands of New Mexico. My QL was packed away for

the majority of my square. Time passed, and the article was pretty much forgotten.

Eventually, I must have interpreted a written comment by Tom (Lobben) that he was having power supply problems, and so, I re-loaded my original article, drew up a diagram, and sent it to him (and he co-authored "QQL in Command" in IQJA). I requested that Tom advise me if he could not follow it, otherwise, if he had no problems, to send it off to Bob Dyl (QQL's editor/publisher). That was November 1994. Well, I never heard back from Tom, so I can only presume that he didn't have a problem with following the instructions in the article.

While I could only presume that the article was sent to Bob Dyl, I eventually re-sent the article in April along with three others directly to IQJA. The US Postal service did NOT return my envelope, so I can only presume that IQJA received the article. Well, that certainly makes Bob Dyl's lament about the lack of articles a few months ago ring hollow, doesn't it?

Of course, in theory, it is the prerogative of any editor to exclude information from their publications, particularly if the writers are being paid for their articles, but, it seems obstructive to the betterment of the Sinclair (particularly, QL) community to omit an article such as this one unless the information was found to be grossly inaccurate or incorrect.

Well, perhaps Bob Dyl has a "vision" of how the QL community should develop. Perhaps he thinks that information which "competes" with commercial products should be suppressed. Perhaps he thinks that only articles written by his by his friends should be included. Or, is it something else?

Perhaps you bought a Q-Power and are satisfied with the idea of cutting and soldering on your Gold Card. Perhaps you have unlimited funds that don't sting on any portion of your household budget so that you would prefer to buy one of the over-the-counter QL-in-a-box packages instead of saving some money. Perhaps you consider yourself simply a regular person to whom the way of the world can be dictated by those who would like to be thought of as the cognoscenti.

Regardless, I know that I would be mollified if I had been looking for this information on wiring a QL motherboard to a PC power supply, and later found out it was excluded from print because of some unrelated, specific editorial policy.

And, that is the real pity because IQJA has apparently provided an excellent forum to a geographically diverse number of QL users. It seems that most of the articles are informative - even if many tend to have particular products - since they are usually written by enthusiasts. Still, the episode begs the question: How many other articles and how much other information has been excluded for reasons that one can only speculate upon?

IQJA's editorial policy is ambiguous at best (I remember once reading the proclamation that every article submitted had been printed just about a year before the latest that there was a dearth of articles) and has certainly

become provocative at worst.

You have "one side" of the story about the history of this article. If you want more information (i.e., the "other side" if there is one), put your queries in the proper mailbox, telephone) format. Discuss this with other members in your users group. In particular, you owe it to yourself to get explanations and answers if you are an QXL subscriber.

I don't like contrarians since I try to spend most of my time in the Upper Paleolithic and early Holocene — in other words, I can only show what I know from the bones, tips and hopes that someone else knows what needs to be said, and hopefully, those of you out there who do just

about the direction of the QXL community make it a consensus — rather than an individual — decision.

If I did like contrarians, then I would be posting the information about Bob Dyfi's extraordinary policy on QBox and the appropriate status in the INTERNET. Perhaps some of you out there will do so. The QXL community needs to hear from all voices about all its facts. What I know is that someone has to point out wrong any clothes, and, someone has to point it out. **HAPPY TRAILS, AND COMPUTING, TO YOU ...**

QXL TOTES

by Al Fung

Nathan Santa sent the postman brought me a new copy of EMSQ for Christmas, and so, I'm still plugging away with the same version of EMSQ (v2.57) that I received during the Summer. That should not be considered bad, but obviously, the same limitations exist in before with the video display being less than 80% of the "available" VGA display and the TURBO compiler still not fully compatible with SBASIC.

It may be noted that Joshua Morris (MSQ) always appears to be a version release ahead of the "standard" EMSQ that is ported to QXL users, so, MSQ users may eventually have the keyword DISP_SIZE available to the QXL with a future upgrade. Whether DISP_SIZE will remedy my complaint about the QXL's diminished display is unknown.

A PORTABLE QXL

Although the QXL itself is relatively light (about 3 pounds), after you add a monitor and other sundries, it generally becomes quite cumbersome to transport. For many QXL users, a (home-)portable QXL has been high on the wish list — perhaps, the "holy grail" of QXL hardware.

The fact that the QXL runs a PC as its host means that if one can find an AT-class portable with an ISA expansion slot then one should be able to have a portable QXL as well.

Laptop PCs with ISA slots are a rare breed because they arrived just prior to the advent of the stopped-down, suitcase-sized notebook class of computer with which they broadly competed. Most of the laptop-class AT-portables with the ISA slots were very high end as one may note by the Gas Plasma displays which many had. The contrast provided by Gas Plasma displays was superior to that of the pre-VGA LCD screens of the time.

The CARDSTAR 486 and the PCIE 4X CD (PC Portable Manufacturers, Inc.) are two contemporary laptops with ISA expansion slots. The former does not appear to be available, but the latter still is (price varies depending on screen, processor, memory, etc., starting at about \$1800). The former had a monochrome VGA display, while the latter is available with either monochrome or color (passive or active). I am not sure what the keyboard layout is for the CARDSTAR, but, I can report that the PCIE's non-ASCII layout looks refined.

The following list of other laptops and portables are PCs which should be usable with a QXL, and, but, what should be may not be. The COMPAQ Portable II and the DataWorld PortaComp II have "handbook" configurations. The information is believed to be accurate, but, actual specifications may be better-or-worse than I have collected.

COMPAQ Portable II	16 BIT (2 - Full length)
EPSON L7350	16 BIT (1 - Three-quarter length)
EPSON L7360X	16 BIT (1 - Three-quarter length)
MYCORA L7100	16 BIT (3 - Full length)
TANDON LT 3800X	16 BIT (1 - Full)
DataWorld Data L7000	16 or 8 BIT (1 - Half length)
DataWorld PortaComp II	16 or 8 BIT (2 - Half length)
DELL 330LT	8 BIT (1 - HALF length)
DELL 330LT	8 BIT (1 - Half length)
TOSHIBA T3000	8 BIT (2 - Half length)
TOSHIBA T3200X	8 BIT (1 - Full, 1 - half length)

The original generation of laptops with ISA expansion slots appear to weigh between 14.5 and 18 pounds. If you are entering by marketplace then ask about all of the specs particularly, you should confirm whether the slots are 16 BIT or 8 BIT. Do not confuse the TOSHIBA T3100X (for example) with the TOSHIBA T3100 or T3200X.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

I recently had the opportunity to try my QXL and a refurbished EPSON L7350. The EPSON is probably a compromise between the best and the worst from which one might choose. From what I am able to glean, the EPSON may be the only ISA-portable with a 386 processor and VGA output ("true" shades of "grey"). With the exception of the two, contemporary laptops, the rest appear to use an 80386 (generally 50) with VGA output (generally 16 shades of "grey").

I should note, before getting too far along, that I returned the EPSON I had bought because the screen backlighting did not always come on. I had been promised a "new" replacement screen, and waited three weeks for it before calling to find that it had never been sent. Consequently, I am still waiting for a "credit memo" from the vendor — until then, I will reserve the name of the vendor.

My first impression of the EPSON L7350 was that it

off only felt heavy, it was heavy. The water was looked as though it had been much better done. The EPSON's 800x600 LCD display (11") can be considered an adequate (not measured) QXL display — for screen was supposed to be "Hera", but I've seen better. While the display is "average" made appeared clean, resolution is that it only provided two shades, and, due could result in critical drop-out as RED is translated to BLACK, etc.

Because there appear to be only "three" shades of GREY (I think there are actually "four" shades), whatever was RED on your QX is GREY on the EPSON's monochrome, LCD screen, and whatever was GREEN on your QX is translated as WHITE — as, available. I think BLUE is translated as a pale grey. If you are familiar with SKYGLASS, I will mention that the EPSON can the program (configured for a VGA monitor) without any apparent problems.

The EPSON has an external MICROVGA/CGA, looking plus an external keyboard port. The 40 meg. hard-disk is removable, and I would suspect that about any 2.5" or 3.5" IDE drive could be substituted if you wanted a larger capacity.

The keyboard felt crisp and looked "new", but, the layout of the non-ASCII keys is a bit odd (but, I think the layout of the original AT keyboards is odd, too, so, you

have to be the judge of what is acceptable for you).

The AC/DC transformer plugs onto the back of the turn-on battery pack which must weigh five-to-five pounds. Since I did not receive a manual, I can only suppose that the transformer can be attached directly to the computer. I'm not sure how long it takes to charge the battery, but I am sure that based on the battery technology available that such charge only "lasts" for about two hours. Details are hopefully available from EPSON.

The EPSON LT286s could be a lot worse, and, it is certainly very usable as is. There are limitations, and whether or not those limitations would preclude your using it as the host for your QXL depends on your own standards. Because saving weight is saving me to prefer a "good" (easy to move) screen, I don't recommend the EPSON LT286s, but, the EPSON LT286SX may (should?) have a VGA screen with at least 16 shades of grey, and, the "upgrade" would be worth looking for.

The bottom line is that despite the fact that the EPSON LT286s worked with the QXL, and, if it weren't for the bulky screen, I might still have it, but, all things considered, I guess I'm still looking for a portable ISA host for my QXL, and,

HAPPY TRAILS,
AND COMPUTING, TO YOU.

DAISY BE GOOD - V

by David Lanyon

Look HERE, you guys! We hear that some of you have DAISY software, but are not following along in these presentations, which are designed, to get you to use this stuff, or, at least, TO TRY IT.

DAISY is more flexible than MICROST, and a better nice margin at the bottom of the page, which TAYLORSD always do it. So get on your feet, named Daisy it, and do an AUTOSTART. A new player, and full sized home comes on-screen with an invitation to "PRESS A KEY". At this point, we always press "T", because what follows becomes so automatic and easy-to-remember.

The MAIN thing to remember is that we are now describing (as an actual feature, which can always be revised by pressing in Function Menu, as discussed last time.) the first presentation or one, upon print-out of our manuscript, or other document. So, we press "T", as standing, then "T" for the dot matrix printer.

We are using an ASCII CODE, and a punch of "T" tells that to the software. The dot matrixer are set to wait for software-generated line feeds, and we punch "Y" in response to the next question.

We like both margins justified, and narrow the last question is the affirmative. The first line of all our paragraphs is indented by 3 spaces.

The software stores up all the above formatting information, and sends it on the printer port (DTP?) to the printer. Then, the software uses the printer's buffer before sending it out. So, from the value, "PRINTER MUST BE ON" connected, and ready to go.

After sending out the information to the printer (assuming, Daisy, the main menu, Function Menu, comes on-screen. We remember all the formatting, by using LOAD (any) and punch 3.2-1-0-0-0.

The first four entries in the menu have decreased the first

three entries of the Function Menu. Hence, that, the 1-0-0-0-0, decreases the Data Status Menu, as that which happens, when you punch "0" in the Function Menu.

Well, if you punch "T" now, you get the description of the occupancy status of several strings in an empty, or after the second, software. That's all right, and we can tell a lot about this interesting Data Status Menu, and about the Daisy software, itself, as distributed by Frank Davis.

For example, the column on the left indicates, that all contents exactly 1 character, a blank right now. There are a lot of empty strings, right now, but it contains a string of 11 characters "I" would appreciate whatever information or suggested references that you can provide."

These strings can all be used for temporary storage of possible calculations, which can be stored many times in the composition of a printable document. Thus, we want to be able to keep track of the availability of various strings.

H8 and H9 are both string strings, which continue to contain the printable document. Thus at least the number of paragraphs and the number of characters in both H8 and H9. H8=H887 indicates a line limit of about 10000 bytes for that early more characters in the document. When we are through reading this menu's information, we can get back to the Function Menu, by pressing ENTER.

Pressing a BREAK, while the menu is on the screen, traps us into answering the question, whether we desire to CLEAR variables and LOAD a complete, new set of variable values. If NO, then we return to the Function Menu with nothing changed. If YES, then we are asked for the number from 0 to 4 of a data file, containing one of variable files. The data file is designated, and then with extension, C2 are listed. Variable files have a five-digit number for the name, and three five digits plus the extension indicate which variable file is to be loaded in, thereby completely reinitializing Daisy

ANNOUNCING: IKI_{TM} Keyboard Interface for 1000/2068 by Jack Doherty

October 18, 1988

I've been using my IKI and an IBM keyboard with my 2068 for seven years, and I love it. I've been wondering how to share the IKI with the Times community, and have finally decided just to do it, however I can.

HISTORY

The IKI was designed in 1981 by a friend who has since retired from the Times office and now wishes to remain anonymous. I have his permission to publish and/or reproduce his design however I wish. We owe him a debt of gratitude, I do not intend to profit from his design, but only to share it freely. I ask only payment for materials expended in the sharing process.

WHAT IT WORKS ON

The IKI can be used with the 2068, 2068L, TS 1000, TS 1300, Spectrum and TS 2068 computers. It is compatible with all monitors for these computers. It cannot be used with the QL or EBC.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

The IKI works with any IBM XT-compatible keyboard. The keyboard must have an XT/AT selector switch. The IKI won't work with "auto-ranging" keyboards which decide for themselves whether the computer is an XT or AT type.

HOW USE AN IBM KEYBOARD? It just feels good, that's why. And if you wear it out, you can replace it.

HOW TO USE THE IKI

Just plug it in, and type away. You do not need to load any software. The IKI works with virtually all software: MICROLET, TALKWORD etc. etc. There are a few Spectrum games with which the IKI cannot be used, those which require the simultaneous pressing of two or more letter or number keys.

IBM SHIFT key serves as our CAPS-SHIFT.

IBM ALT key serves as our SYMBOL-SHIFT.

IBM CTRL key serves as CAPS-SHIFT + SYMBOL-SHIFT.

IBM ESC key serves as BREAK (Caps-shift + space).

IBM numeric keypad serves as a numeric keypad only. The IBM function keys 1 to 10 serve as shifted 1 to 0. Therefore it's best to use an IBM keyboard which has its function keys above the numeric keys, rather than grouped on the left side.

THE FLY IN THE OINTMENT

The IKI works admirably with word processors and other application software. It can be a pain in the footer to use when writing or editing BASIC programs, since the Standard keycodes do not appear on the IBM keyboard. There are four possible solutions:

1. Use the native keyboard for BASIC editing, or
2. Use a sheet or list showing keys and keycodes, or
3. Memorize such a sheet, or

4. Use my KEYWORD V2.0 program which lets you type in keywords letter by letter.

Solution 4 is the one I usually use when editing BASIC.

HOW TO GET AN IKI

Ah, now we come to the hard part: sharing it. I see three possible schemes:

1. Build one for you, or
2. You build your own with my help, or
3. We as a group make a PC board, or have one made.

SCHEME ONE is not economically feasible. It would cost you about \$340! That's because it takes about 30 hours to hand-type an IKI board. If you're willing to pay that much, I'll be happy to build you an IKI if and when I find the time. If you have more time than money, and construction skills, you might prefer Scheme Two.

SCHEME TWO possibilities

1. Send me a self-address stamped envelope. I'll send you the IKI schematics and EPROM contents. You will have to buy all hardware (about \$30) and program your own EPROM. This info could also be published in any magazine or newsletter that wishes to devote numerous pages to it.

BASIC is NOT NEEDED for items 2 to 4.

2. For \$50 I'll send you the items listed above, plus complete construction details, and a pre-programmed EPROM.

3. For \$40 I'll send you the items listed above, plus all needed parts EXCEPT the non-commercial finger board which I am unable to obtain. (If you know of a source for finger boards, please let me know!)

4. KEYWORD V2.0 is in the public domain. A disk containing it would cost \$5.

SCHEME THREE: Let me know how you can help, with time, skill or money, in the production of an IKI PC board. If enough people are interested, it may be possible to produce an IKI PC board. Self-addressed stamped envelopes appreciated.

October 30, 1988

The version of KEYWORD that you have is probably a very early one, and to you respect, it was probably improperly SAVED. The latest version is not flaky about when it gets SAVED and is in all ways much better than the original. Will there be a V2.0? Well, probably. If and when I think of any improvements.

The only real problem with KEYWORD V2.0 (and all earlier versions) is that it's not compatible with BASIC programs which use noncommercial machine-code-as-a-BASIC statement. Right now I can't think of any solution to that problem other than modifying such BASIC programs, or rather, the code as these BASIC statements.

You'll note that no EPROM or schematics of the IKI are enclosed. That's because, since the article was written, I have come up with some ideas for improvements to the

IC) design, and I want to try these out before doing or less finalizing the design.

You'll note that no EPROM or references of the IC) are enclosed. That's because, since the article was written, I have come up with some ideas for improvements to the IC) design, and I want to try these out before doing or less finalizing the design.

You WILL get the IC) EPROM and documentation, as soon as I'm sure that they are as good as they can be, for the present.

I have great plans for the future. I have finally (after years of effort) succeeded in modifying my DEVPAC assembler and disassembler so that they can cope with

LARGE machine-code programs. It is now possible, for the first time ever, to re-compile, re-write and re-assemble LARGE machine-code programs, such as MSCLIFT, the Lucifer DCS and the 2048-And Speeches ROMs. I will now be able to do things that I have only dreamed of being able to do. Great things are coming, in the fullness of time, and yes, *Times/Sinclair still lives!*

Best regards,

Jack Doherty

627 Vera Ave

Redwood City, CA 94061

415367-7781

50 Something

Editor

We were born before television, penicillin, polo shirts, plastic cards, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Fishbowl and the pill. We were before tape decks, pushy host, printers, word processors and gas wearing earrings.

We watched RADAR, split atoms, laser beams, artificial hearts, FM radios, ball point pens, dishwashers, cloth dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners,

permanent-wave clothes and men walking on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together; quans wasn't it? Closets were for cloths and not for coming out off. Bunnies were small rabbits and not lesbian girls, rabbits were not Volkswageners.

Douglas' Jeeps were wheezing girls named Jean and meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what we ate during lent, and outer space was the back of the Riviera theater.

We were before househusbands, gay nights, computer dating, dual careers, and computer marriages. Before day-care centers, group therapy, wellness and running homes.

For us, time sharing, friend togetherness, not

computers or condourments. A chap smelt a piece of wood or off the old block, hardware was at the general store and software wasn't even a word in the dictionary.

Made in Japan meant junk, making out referred to how we did on the coast. Cool and hot were adjectives and not a state of mind.

Pizza, McDonald's, gyros, yogurt and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there were 3 at 10¢ stores, where we bought things for a nickel or a dime. For a nickel we rode a street car, made a phone call, bought a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail a letter and two Postcards. We could buy a Chevy coupe for \$600, but who could afford one? A pony too, with gas at 11¢ a gallon.

Cigarette smoking was fashionable, gum was chewed, coke was a cold drink and got was something we cooked in. Rock music was a grandma's lullaby and

male were helpers in the principal's office.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were rarely before the sex change. We were the last generation that was so dumb as to think that a woman needed a husband and not a test tube to have a baby.

What a life!

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Bob Swager Address on page 3

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Timothy Swenson, *Editor*
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The Ramtop

Newsletter

The Greater Cleveland T-S User Group

Thomas Simon editor
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(3) Q-SAVE fast loading device for cassette systems. Not
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(4) TS-1336 computer with power supply, manual, tv switch
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relying on 323

(5) TS 1000 Computer with manual but no TV switch box or
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TS-1000

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- 15) Synchro-Sette subscription tape September 1983 no docs
- 15) Synchro-Sette subscription tape November 1983 no docs
- 16) Alter ARC Gate (Times) 16K RAM no docs
- 17) Backgrounds (Times) 16K RAM no docs
- 18) Gas Cages (Times) 2K RAM docs
- 19) Biglip Attack (Times) 16K RAM no docs
- 20 & 21) Capitalization Master (Times) 16K RAM Docs
- 22) Challenger I (Times) 2K RAM docs
- 23 & 24) Checkbook Manager (Times) 16K RAM Docs
- 25) Cruise Path Analysis (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 27) Color Game (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 29) Flight Simulator (Times) docs
- 31 & 32) Fortress Of Solos (Times) 16K RAM + cassette
- 33 & 34) Frogger (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 34) Gnomes & Fairy Trails (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 38) Home Asset Manager (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 39 & 40) Inventory Control (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 42) Language Usage (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 43) Manufacturing Control (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 44) Mixed Game Bag 1 (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 45 & 46) Mixed Game Bag 2 (Times) 2K RAM docs
- 51) Mixed Game Bag 3 (Times) 2K RAM docs
- 53 & 54) Money Analyzer I (Times) 2K RAM docs
- 57) Optimizer (VU-FILES) (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 59) Power Peak I (Times) 2K RAM docs
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- 61) Puzzler (Times) 16K RAM docs
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- 73 & 74 & 75) YU-CALC (Times) 16K RAM docs
- 76 & 77 & 78) Pac Rabbit (P8) 16K RAM docs
- 79) Backbytes and Day Of Week (Softbyte) 16K RAM docs for backbytes only
- 80) Delphi Toolkit (Thomas B Woods) 16K RAM no docs
- 81) Escape From Slamm (Softbyte) 16K RAM docs
- 82) Jovialit Causes For 2K RAM 8 (Zebra Systems) docs
- 84) HOT E-11 (Ray Kingsley) 16K and 64K RAM docs
- 85) Inca Game (Archo Computing) 16K docs
- 86) Key and "UTILITY" (Russell Electronics) 16K RAM docs
- 87) Lockin Disk Utilities-CDI (Public Domain) no docs
- 88) Mad Dog Talk Master (Thom Woods) 16K RAM no docs
- 89) Main Street (Date-cassette) 16K RAM no docs
- 90 & 91 & 92) Master Series I, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Moby House) 64K RAM docs
- 93) Monarch (Softbyte) 16K RAM no docs
- 94 & 95 & 96) Mouse Man (D Date Computer) 16K RAM docs
- 97) Monarch Puzzle (Softbyte) 16K RAM no docs
- 98) Printer Driver, Unwired (Fred McElroy) docs
- 99) Programmer Toolkit (Softbyte) 16K docs
- 100) Quest For Holy Grail & Shave Mr. Big (children) 16K RAM docs
- 101) Sact (Thomas B Woods) 16K RAM no docs
- 102) RAMdinger (College Software) 16K RAM no docs
- 104 & 105) Superstar (DSC Software) docs
- 107) Tool Kit and CDPS-CAT (Unknown) docs
- 108) Zombies and Mount Mayhem (Date-cassette) no docs
- 109) ZSC Assembler (Bio-Byte) docs
- 110) ZSC Ports / Ports Demos, no docs
- 111) ZCLUB (Russell Electronics) docs
- 112 & 113 & 114) Adventure C (Softbyte) 16K no docs
- 115 & 116) Alien Invasion (Softbyte) 16K no docs
- 117 & 118) Artist Game Type 2 (McElroy House) 16K docs
- 119 & 120) Catapult Game Type 3 (Moby House) 16K docs
- 121 & 122) Championship Chess (Softbyte) 16K Docs
- 123) Calculator (Times) 16K put one of docs missing
- 124) Calculator "DAM" follow directions on screen
- 125) Financial Manager & Record Keeper (Softbyte) 16K docs
- 126 & 127) Flight Simulator (Times) 16K docs
- 128) Graphics Kit (Softbyte) 16K docs
- 129) HOT E II 16K and 64K no docs
- 130) HOT E II 16K only no docs
- 131) Machine Code Test Tool 16K no docs
- 132) Master Suite Set 253 Cassettes no docs
- 133) Menagerie Cassettes / 7 Cassettes) Yarns By Fred McElroy with help disc docs
- 134) "METER" Communication Program no docs
- 135 & 136 & 137) Night Caller (Softbyte) 16K docs
- 138) Plan (McElroy) 16K docs
- 139 & 140) PRATTLE (Thomas B Woods) 16K no docs
- 141 & 142) Pyrom Game Type 1 (McElroy House) 16K no Docs
- 143) Quest For Holy Grail & Shave Mr. Big (Softbyte) 16K docs
- 144) Screen Kit I (McElroy) 16K docs
- 145) Shark's Treasure (Softbyte) 16K, sealed never opened
- 146) Space Commando (Softbyte) 16K, sealed never opened
- 147 & 148) Starlighter Game Type 2 (McElroy House) 16K Docs
- 149) Super Chess (Softbyte) 16K, sealed never been opened
- 150) TS Destroyer & Space Road (Softbyte) 2K sealed
- 151) ZNAS Machine Code Assembler docs
- 152) ZSC Assembler no docs
- 153) ZCLUB (D Russell) no docs
- 154) ZTEXT (McElroy) 16K docs
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CNSN 3

Last Updated: September 16, 1995

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